

Sangamon County LEPC

P.O. Box 2105, Springfield IL 62705

January 17, 2008

Summary Report Relative to LEPC Activities During 2007

During calendar year 2007, the Sangamon County LEPC convened regularly scheduled meetings on five occasions: January 18, March 15, May 17, September 20 and November 15. A quorum of our membership was present at each of these meetings. All meetings were held at the Office of the State Fire Marshal, except for the September meeting which was hosted by the American Red Cross Illinois Capital Area Chapter (ARC).

A large portion of the agenda for our January LEPC meeting was committed to a review of EPCRA and an explanation of partnerships we have with the SERC, NOAA and OSHA. Recognized in attendance were Kathy Allen, Chris Miller & Ernie Goetsch and Becky Styron, representing these partners, respectively.

As we were preparing for the January meeting, the OEM office was visited by a newspaper reporter who requested access to the County's comprehensive emergency response plan. He did so citing provisions of EPCRA pertaining to LEPC planning. It appears that this was part of a nationwide annual Sunshine Week audit sponsored by journalist organizations. In our opinion, the journalists were missing the mark by approaching emergency management organizations based on EPCRA. While OEM denied the request from this reporter, it used the biennial update of its plan which was completed by the end of March, to remove all information deemed confidential. OEM has henceforward provided electronic copies of its plan to all members of the public making a request.

The March LEPC meeting provided the opportunity for the entire LEPC to be further briefed on requests from and responses to this reporter. The LEPC also had the chance to review the 2 largest site specific plans that the Emergency Coordinator had completed: CWLP and Rosen's, Inc. While many Tier 2 forms had been received prior to this meeting, the LEPC was informed that the filing deadline had been extended due to problems with software used for electronic filing with the SERC.

By the May meeting, the extended deadline for Tier 2 filing had passed. The numbers that we had received still were short of what had been filed in 2006. Requests for missing forms had been made and we were identifying additional sites with EHS chemicals that had never filed a Tier 2 form.

In September, our gathering at the ARC office was our annual meeting for the public to have an opportunity to review planning documents and ask questions. The means for posting electronic documents on a County server for public sharing was presented to the LEPC. Spending from the FFY 2007 HMEP Grant was reviewed, as was the application for the FFY 2008 HMEP Grant.

Our November meeting covered the usual range of items identified on our agenda, but it was highlighted by discussion of the explosion and fire which occurred on November 10, at CWLP's Dallman Power Plant. While the stored EHS chemicals at the facility were not threatened by the fire, our site specific plan for CWLP was available for use by the chief of the Springfield Fire Department, as the incident commander, during this event.

Statistics for our LEPC activities during 2007 are as follows:

90 Tier 2 forms were received. Of these, 56 included at least one EHS chemical and 34 were for non-EHS facilities. One facility which previously had stored an EHS chemical during 2005, submitted a Certification that the quantities of chemicals stored during 2006 were insufficient to mandate that it file a Tier 2 form in 2007. We also identified 6 facilities storing the EHS chemical, Anhydrous Ammonia, in bulk tanks, which have never filed Tier 2 forms with our LEPC.

During 2007, our Emergency Coordinator completed 14 new site specific plans. This brings his total over 2 years to 25. Of these 25 completed plans, 13 of them received their initial annual updates during 2007. The Emergency Coordinator drove nearly 3,000 miles during 2007 while pursuing our site specific planning project for EHS chemicals stored within Sangamon County.

Respectfully submitted,
by David Butt, Chair